Proposed Legislation AB 2424

THEMES



Understandable information about integrated options at the IPP - like employment and college



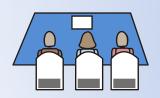
Employment First Policy



Transition Planning



Inter-Agency Collaboration



SCDD Advisory Committee



SB 1270 Stakeholders Were Heard

Important Words in the Proposed Law

Community participation

Access to and use of community resources and activities - Based on what individuals want and like to do with regular interaction with community members.

Gainful employment

Wages or other payment at minimum wage or higher.

Integrated employment

Working in a typical job in the community:

A place where people without disabilities work. Includes supported and customized employment, self-employment and micro-enterprises.

Least Restrictive

Opportunities to live, have fun, work and be educated with non-disabled peers/community members to the greatest amount possible.

Employment First Policy

New statewide policy about planning for real jobs through the IPP process:

Partnerships with state departments, agencies, schools and businesses.

Post Secondary Education

Education after high school - College, vocational training, adult education.



At IPP meetings, make sure people get information they need about their choices, especially: Real jobs & working in the community, Other community activities: [volunteering, internships, classes, clubs, etc.] and Benefits: Social Security, MediCal, Medicare, etc.

PROPOSED AB 2424

- (A) IPP teams must start with the idea that individuals **can and** want to live, work and participate in integrated settings and have services needed to do it.
- (B) At IPP meetings, information about benefits and integrated options must be provided (living in the community, real jobs, community activities).
- (C) Information provided at IPP meetings may use different formats, adaptations, languages (and visits to different service options, if that works better for the individual or family).
- (D) Peer advocates may be used to help individuals understand choices and participate in their IPPs.
- (E) IPPs document that integrated options were talked about and evaluated with the individual and the team.
- (F) Individuals between 16 –22 years have IPPs with a section about transition planning.
- (G) Individuals over 22 years have IPPs with an employment and/or career development section.
- (H) Adults who want to live in supported living have access to Supported Living Services.



IPP team must start with the idea that individuals can and want to live, work and participate in integrated settings and have services needed to do it.



Segregated - disability-only - services are considered only AFTER all community integrated services are evaluated for and with the individual.

IPP teams MUST identify the least restrictive setting for each individual whether those services and supports are available or not.

IPPs document that integrated options were talked about with the individual and team.



Real jobs: micro-enterprises, individual businesses, supported employment and customized employment. Social, civic, recreational and other community activities. Education after high school and volunteer opportunities. Community living options, including Supported Living Services.





Individuals between 16 –22 years have IPPs with a section about transition to adult services and supports.

Plans by Regional Centers and other agencies help the individual move to community integrated services.



Individuals over 22 years have IPPs with an employment and career development section.

Integrated work and/or education after high school.

Benefits (like SSI, Ticket to Work), what happens with benefits when an individual has a job.

How to work, have benefits, and save some of what individuals earn.

• If services are not available, the IPP team MUST identify barriers and steps to remove those barriers, as appropriate.



The State Council will ask state agencies like Department of Developmental Services, Education and Rehabilitation to put funding together to help people figure out what to do after high school.









PROPOSED AB 2424 (Employment First Policy)

Department of Developmental Services, Rehabilitation, Education, Employment Development Department, Governor's Committee on Employment and employers meet to advise on:



Transition rules that help agencies coordinate better.

Eliminating funding barriers that prevent new services.

Goals and plans to increase integrated employment, wages and hours worked.



At 16 years, individuals must begin to participate in transition planning that prepares them to:

Move to integrated adult services after high school, like adult education, integrated employment supported or independent living and community participation.

At 16 years, individuals must begin to receive services needed to prepare for participation in adult life.



The State Council will ask the State and all employers in California to hire more persons with disabilities.

PROPOSED AB 2424 (Employment First Policy)

Employment, at or above minimum wage, in integrated settings must be the first option.



Individuals who want to work should have the individualized services they need to be in the California workforce.

Incentives must be provided for employers, providers and communities to support individuals to expand opportunities for employment.





Help fund individuals who have good ideas about work services and other community services, including persons with developmental disabilities who want to start their own business.

PROPOSED AB 2424 (Employment First Policy)



Innovative services are supported and duplicated.



DDS and the State Council will work together to establish a startup fund to develop and expand new, successful integrated employment services.



Supports are available to facility-based services that want to change to integrated employment services.

Supports are available to training groups that offer technical assistance to providers who offer employment services.



Make sure support staff get the training they need to do a good job. Put together good trainers from across the state who will help teach staff to understand people's differences and support them better in communities.

PROPOSED AB 2424 (Employment First Policy)

Direct support professionals are trained, make a living wage with benefits.





Get the word out in a media campaign about persons with developmental disabilities as good employees, neighbors and community members.

PROPOSED AB 2424 (Employment First Policy)

Community Education

Promote the message that people with developmental disabilities are:



Good friends, neighbors, residents



Fellow workers.



For people who work and get Social Security, let them keep more of the money they earn and health benefits.

PROPOSED AB 2424 (Employment First Policy)

Benefits Planner





Each Regional Center must have a Benefits Planner who knows about SSI, Social Security, Medi-Cal, Workability, Ticket to Work and other programs that effect an individual's benefits.



Let Regional Centers pay for more services that help people find and keep jobs, and do things in the community like everyone else.

PROPOSED AB 2424 (Employment First Policy)

Have payment incentives and strategies that encourage providers to offer a flexible menu of integrated employment supports.

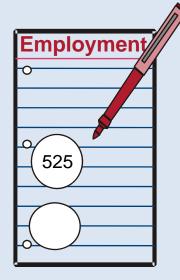




Keep track of the work situations of people and how they are getting into the community.

PROPOSED AB 2424 (Employment First Policy)

State must measure progress in integrated employment and community participation.



Goals for number of individuals in integrated employment must be developed.

Departments of Developmental Services (DDS) and Education have an agreement about joint training, technical assistance and collecting data.

DDS must report annually to the Legislature about individuals by type of employment, day program or educational program. Information used to evaluate whether Regional Centers are increasing opportunities for integrated employment and education after high school.





Keep track of the work situations of people and how they are getting into the community.

PROPOSED AB 2424 (Employment First Policy)

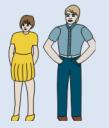


DDS will review sample IPPs to evaluate the person-centered planning process for all individuals.



They review:

Services and supports are in the most inclusive settings. If they are not, there are plans for more inclusive settings.

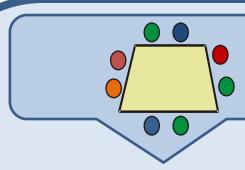


There is person-centered planning and individuals have information they need and understand.



IPPs are developed by teams, based on what individuals need and want—and reflect ethnic, cultural and language backgrounds.

Task Force



PROPOSED AB 2424





The State Council, with support from DDS, will put together a Task Force of stakeholder groups that includes individuals with developmental disabilities and employers, both private and public



Review DDS regulations and Regional Center vendor codes to see if they support the **Employment First Policy.**



Revise policies to ensure the flexibility needed for consumers to participate in integrated employment and education after high school.

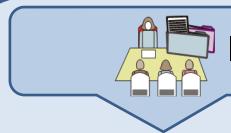


Identify barriers to the Employment First Policy and how these barriers can be solved.

Look at how other states fund employment services



Consumer Advisory Committee



Input and Action

PROPOSED AB 2424



Gather information from the public on whether the Employment First Policy is working.



Make a report to the Legislature every year, starting January 2010.



Review what is working well and what is getting in the way-barriers.



Other Projects.